

CELL SIGNALING

CENTER

The Center for Cell Signaling (CCS) develops and commercializes new technologies that are important to the treatment of cancer, allergy, asthma and inflammation. CCS has 20 participating faculty from eight different departments at the University of Utah, one faculty member from Brigham Young University and two from Utah State University, focusing their talents in a synergistic way to create and commercialize new technologies.

TECHNOLOGY

The CCS focuses on the synthesis and drug applications of new molecules involved in cell to cell communication, from controlling the biochemical pathways of signal transduction to designing instruments used to study these processes. Current developments include tools necessary for the elucidation of chemical pathways that regulate normal and abnormal cell responses. These tools include chemical synthesis, expression of recombinant proteins, preparation of monoclonal antisera, biomolecular interaction analysis and phage display of high affinity peptides. New methods are being developed to assay for signal binding and processing proteins, utilizing high throughput screening.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Center faculty continues to excel in inventions. This year they filed 21 invention disclosures, 20 patents or provisionals on June 30, 2001. Two companies have been spun off using Center technology, Salus Therapeutics, Inc and Echelon Research Laboratories. Salus (established 1999), focuses on identifying ribozyme and antisense targets for specific diseases. The company has research collaborations with the Center and has received two SBIR awards totaling over \$850,000.

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UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Can you imagine.....

A new class of pharmaceuticals that provide therapeutic effects by artificially signaling selected cells in the body to perform desired actions to the benefit of the patient?



Echelon Research Laboratories, established in 1998, markets reagents and kits for identifying oncogene activators and suppressors important in cancer diagnosis. Echelon received six SBIR/STTR awards totaling over \$2 million and has successfully licensed Center technologies, which are now in production.

*21 Invention Disclosures
Two technology licenses signed
Two spin-off companies*

Contact Information

Director: Glenn Prestwich
University of Utah
421 Wakara Way, #360
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801-585-9704
gprestwich@deans.pharm.utah.edu